

11. Although the transitory spines which arm the thorax of some species do not receive any arterial branch, a complete circulation is established in their cavity. Some of the globules which the venous lacunæ convey to the heart make a digression into these transitory appendages, traverse nearly their whole length, and return by a parallel course into the lacuna from which they started.

12. The central nervous system of the larvæ of Crustacea presents differences in its arrangement and form from that of the perfect individual; and the development of each of the medullary nuclei which constitute the ganglionic masses is in relation to the development of the organs to which these nuclei correspond.

13. Lastly, no larva of any species of Crustacea presents traces of the generative apparatus.—*Comptes Rendus*, May 7, 1866, pp. 1024–1027.

*On the Mi-lou or Sseu-pou-siang, a Mammal from the north of China, which forms a new Section in the Family Cervidæ.* By A. MILNE-EDWARDS.

Father David, a missionary at Peking, has sent to the Museum at Paris a zoological collection containing skins of the *Mi-lou*, a large species of stag, which is regarded by M. A. Milne-Edwards as a completely new form.

In its general aspect, in its coat, its clumsy gestures, and the mode in which the male carries his horns, it has a certain resemblance to the Reindeer. It approaches the true *Cervi* by the possession of a naked muffle and in the anatomical characters of the skull; but it is distinguished from all known Cervidæ by the direction and mode of ramification of the horns, and also by the structure of the tail.

The horns present no basal anterior antler, but they are greatly developed and much branched. The processes of the frontal bone from which they originate are larger than in the common stag. The beam is thick, and, at a considerable distance above the burr, gives origin to a long posterior branch, which is directed almost horizontally backward, so as nearly to touch the back of the animal; this branch is almost as thick as the *perche*, and bears on its subterminal portion several antlers arranged upon its outer margin and very close together, so as to form a sort of palmation slightly resembling that of the brow-antler of old reindeers. The *perche*, instead of being regularly curved, is twisted into an S-like form, and bears two large antlers directed backwards and inwards; it terminates in a fork; lastly, all the upper part of the horn is armed with a series of large tubercles, several of which are so much developed as to form little accessory antlers on the outer margin. The female has no horns.

The coat of these animals is rough, brittle, very thick, and of a uniform yellowish-grey colour, except on the median line of the back and chest, where there is a black band.

The tail, instead of being short and thick, is very long, and fur-

nished with long hairs towards the end; these sometimes descend beyond the heel, as in the ass.

According to M. David, the Chinese often give the *Mi-lou* the name of *Sseu-pou-siang*—that is to say, *the four* (characters) *which do not agree*, as they consider that the animal resembles the stag in its horns, the cow in its feet, the camel in its neck, and the mule or the ass in its tail. The author considers the characters of this animal to be so peculiar that it forms a new generic group, and he gives it the name of *Elaphurus Davidianus*.

The *Mi-lou* is of the size of a large stag; an adult male received by the Museum measures 1.30 metre to the withers; and larger individuals are often seen. The animal lives in herds in the imperial park at some distance from Pekin; it has been there for a long time; but the Chinese do not know how or at what time it was brought there. M. David thinks that the reindeer spoken of by Huc, in his 'Voyage en Tartarie,' as living in herds beyond the Koukou-Noor, towards 36° N. lat., may have been identical with the *Mi-lou*.—*Comptes Rendus*, May 14, 1866, pp. 1090–1092.

*On the Pleuronectidæ of the Genus Zeugopterus, and the Structure of their Branchial Cavity.* By J. STEENSTRUP.

In a monograph published in 1835 upon the Pleuronectidæ of the Sound and the Cattegat, M. Gottsche established several new genera which have not in general been accepted by zoologists. One of these genera, *Zeugopterus*, was characterized by the author as presenting a union of the anal fin to the ventrals by a fold of skin starting from the last rays of the latter. M. Krøyer, in his 'Danish Fishes,' has rejected this genus, as being founded upon a character of secondary importance, which can only be regarded as specific. M. Steenstrup agrees with Krøyer as to the value of the character, but nevertheless retains the genus *Zeugopterus*, because the character in question is never isolated, but always presents itself in connexion with others. The most important of the latter is a constant deviation either of the anal or dorsal fin towards the blind side—a deviation which cannot but exert some influence upon the mode of natation of the animal. Moreover the scales of the *Zeugopteri* are roughened with little teeth, and both the outline of the body and the coloration appear to present certain peculiarities common to all the species. But the most evident proof that the group *Zeugopterus* really forms a well-marked natural division, is the discovery by Steenstrup of a very remarkable anatomical peculiarity which is not exemplified in any other Pleuronectid. Thus in the *Zeugopteri* the vertical osseous partition which separates the two branchial cavities from each other is perforated by a large aperture in such a manner that the water can pass freely from one branchial cavity to the other. The physiological bearing of such an arrangement seems very problematical.—*Oversigt, &c., Danske Vidensk. Selsk.* 1865, p. 95; *Bibl. Univ.* May 1866, p. 79.